



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
F BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 40TH FIELD ARTILLERY
434TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-8026

17 March 2016

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

I am CPT Garrett Bailey, Commander of Fox Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery; your Soldier's commander for Basic Combat Training. I am writing to inform you that your Soldier has arrived safely and begun Basic Combat Training here in the 434TH Field Artillery Brigade, United States Army Training Center.

I want to first welcome everyone to our organization and the Army family. The cadre that are training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals. They are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of your Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

During this training period, your Soldier is learning the basic skills that are required on today's modern battlefield. The training has been and will be strenuous and demanding; however, the tasks learned and performed will help your Soldier develop the self-confidence and discipline needed to fight and win this nation's wars.

The support of family and friends is vital to the success of all Soldiers. Encourage your Soldier to continue to perform Physical Training in order to achieve the goals he or she set prior to entering the Army.

Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Mail is delivered no different than civilian mail policies and Soldiers are afforded the opportunity to write and respond to letters regularly. Later in training, your Soldier will have the opportunity to use the phone on weekends, most likely Sunday afternoons. However, this is not guaranteed and the use of cell phones is a privilege based upon good conduct and overall performance of your Soldier. I do encourage you to write to your Soldier as much as possible. Encouragement from home goes a long way in their current environment and keeps your Soldier motivated and engaged. Keeping your Soldier focused during this pivotal time in their training is paramount.

Our mailing address is:

Your Soldier's Rank and Name (ex. PV2 John Smith)

Fox Battery, 1-40th FA your Soldiers Platoon Number (ex. 4th PLT)

6050 NE Rothwell St.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.

You can keep track of your Soldier's Basic Training Class and the milestones they have achieved on our unit's Facebook page. Although our top priority is safety and training, I do my best to get pictures of as many trainees as possible for our battery facebook page. We also will have CDs of the Soldiers training available for purchase during Family Day for \$10. The Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/foxspartans>. Photos and updates are posted often so please "Like" the page and follow your Soldier through their Basic Combat Training experience.

An example of this letter as well as the graduation letter will be posted on the battery internet page. Welcome packets are only mailed to one address. Other family members that plan on attending Family Day or graduation can follow us on our Facebook page and can access the links through the battery internet page on the 434TH Field Artillery Brigade website <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-40/1-40f.html>.

The best means of notifying a Soldier should an emergency arise during training is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your vicinity will contact the Lawton field office, which will then contact me. To do so by telephone, dial 1-800-RED-CROSS and follow the instructions to contact a military service member. Remember, your Soldier is in Fox Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

If I can be of assistance in any matter relating to your new Soldier, please feel free to write or call my cadre or myself. Please view the following website for information on Fort Sill and the Basic Training program <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm> 24 hours a day.

I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier!

SPARTANS!

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//
GARRETT C. BAILEY
CPT, FA
Commanding